



FEDERAL HIGHWAY  
ADMINISTRATION

National PROPANE GAS Association

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LEGS./REGS. DIV.

May 13, 1996  
File: 285.05.18

Docket Clerk  
Office of the Chief Counsel  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh St., SW, Room 4232  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

FHWA-97-2277-22

Subject: *Safety Performance History of New Drivers -- FHWA Docket No. MC-96-6  
[RIN 2125-AD66]*

Dear Sir/Madam:

The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) has reviewed the proposed amendments to the Regulations of the Federal Highway Administration presented in the subject rulemaking and submits the following comments for your consideration.

NPGA is the national trade association of the LP-gas (principally propane) industry with a membership of about 3,500, including 37 affiliated state and regional associations representing members in all 50 states. Although the single largest group of NPGA members are retail marketers of propane gas, the membership includes propane producers, transporters and wholesalers, as well as manufacturers and distributors of associated equipment, containers and appliances. Propane gas is used in over 18 million installations nationwide for home and commercial heating and cooking, in agriculture, in industrial processing, and as a clean air alternative engine fuel for both over-the-road vehicles and industrial lift trucks.

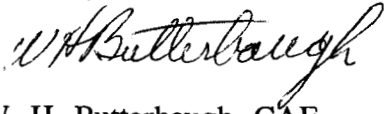
These proposed amendments contain two basic provisions -- (1) to specify minimum safety information prospective employers must seek from previous employers during the investigation of a prospective driver's employment record and (2) would increase the period of time for which carriers must record accident information in the accident register from one to three years. These proposed amendments are mandated by provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Authorization Act of 1994 and would ensure that employers are cognizant of critical information concerning a driver's prior safety performance, while also affording the driver the opportunity to review and comment on that information.

As we understand these proposed amendments, they are sound and would make a constructive improvement in the FHWA Regulations. Consequently, NPGA supports the adoption of the proposed amendments.

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We would be glad to discuss these comments further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



W. H. Butterbaugh, CAE  
Director  
Regulatory Affairs

cc: Gerry Misel  
D. N. Myers  
R. R. Roldan  
J. K. Burnham

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